

# International Weather and Crop Summary

September 12 - 18, 2004

International Weather and Crop Highlights and Summaries provided by USDA/WAOB

## HIGHLIGHTS

**BRAZIL:** Showers benefited immature winter wheat in the far south, but drier weather supported coffee harvesting to the north.

**EUROPE:** In England, Italy, and southeastern Europe, rain boosted topsoil moisture for winter grain and oilseed planting, but slowed fieldwork.

**FSU-WESTERN:** Mostly dry weather favored fieldwork for summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting in Russia and Ukraine.

**FSU-NEW LANDS:** Light, scattered showers caused only brief delays in spring grain harvesting in Russia, while generally dry weather helped harvest activities in Kazakhstan.

**EASTERN ASIA:** Showers in northern China increased soil moisture for winter wheat, later in the week warm, dry weather favored continued crop maturation and harvesting.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Heavy showers eased dryness in central Vietnam, but slowed rice maturation and harvesting in Thailand.

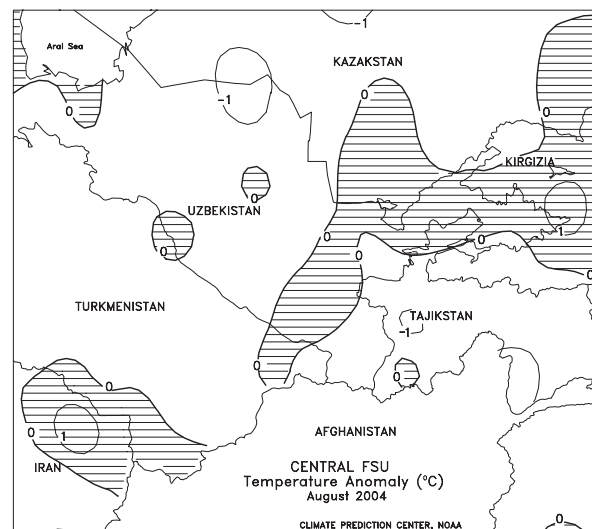
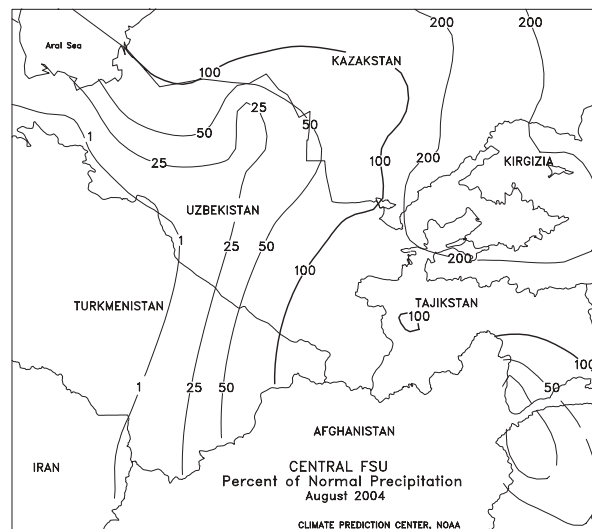
**SOUTH ASIA:** Heavy rain caused additional flooding in Bangladesh while in India, late-season showers benefited immature crops in central and northern India.

**AUSTRALIA:** Mostly dry weather favored winter grain development and summer crop planting.

**CANADA:** Showers slowed fieldwork in southern Manitoba and northern growing areas in Alberta while in eastern Canada, unseasonable warmth gave a needed boost to summer crop development.

**MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN:** Widespread rain continued to maintain adequate soil moisture for filling summer crops in Mexico, while Hurricane Ivan brushed extreme western Cuba, affecting only minor sugarcane areas.

**ARGENTINA:** A warming trend spurred vegetative growth of winter wheat and germination of early planted summer crops, following early-week frosty weather.





**BRAZIL**

Seasonable warmth and dryness supported late coffee harvesting in northern growing areas (Bahia, Minas Gerais, and Rondonia). Scattered showers (10-25 mm or more) fell in the more southerly growing areas (Parana and Sao Paulo), increasing moisture for flowering of the 2004/05 crop, but according to independent analyst Safras e Mercado, old-crop harvesting was nearing completion in those locations. On a national level, coffee was 92 percent harvested as of September 13, compared with 98 percent last season. Harvesting was 89 percent complete in Minas Gerais, which accounts for nearly half of the total production, versus 97 percent at this point last season. Heavier showers (25-50 mm, locally exceeding 100 mm) covered winter wheat areas to the south (Rio Grande do Sul to southeastern Sao Paulo), benefiting immature crops but likely coming too late to significantly improve yield prospects in most areas. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather promoted cocoa and sugarcane harvesting along the northeast coast. During August, mostly dry weather supported coffee harvesting, delayed by earlier periods of inclement weather, but reduced moisture for flowering of next season's crop. In addition, the dryness limited moisture for development of immature winter wheat. Scattered showers increased local moisture levels for coastal sugarcane and cocoa.

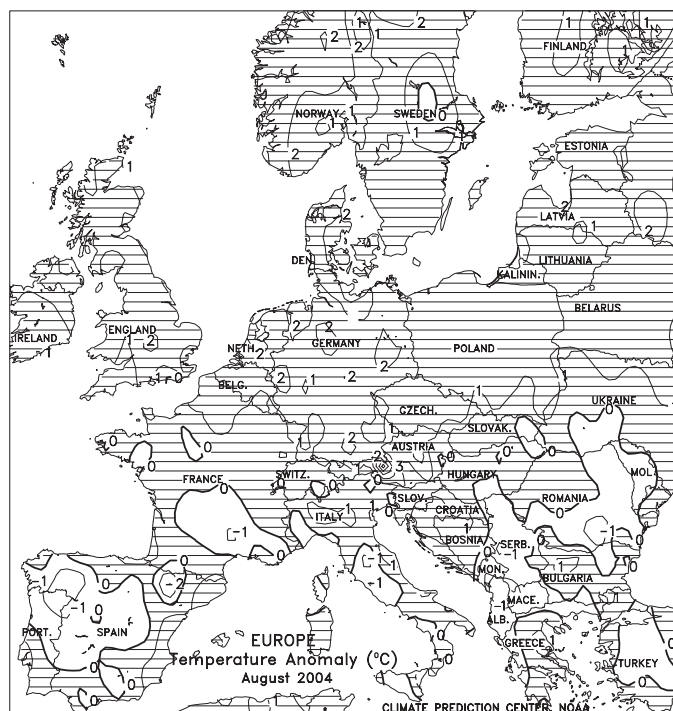




## EUROPE

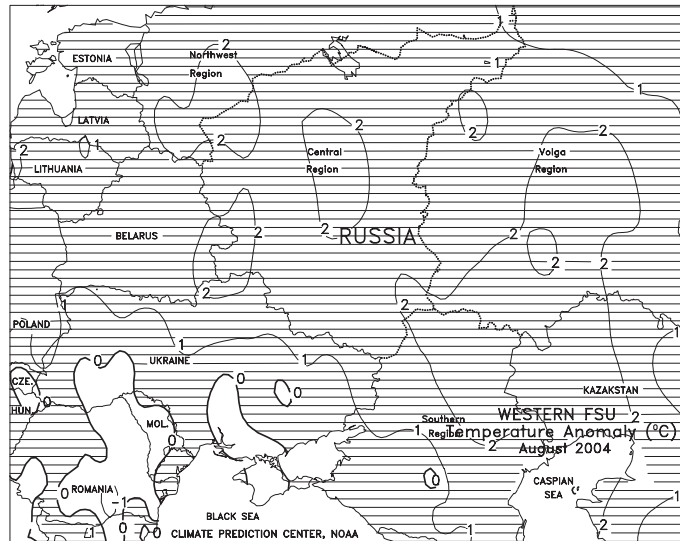
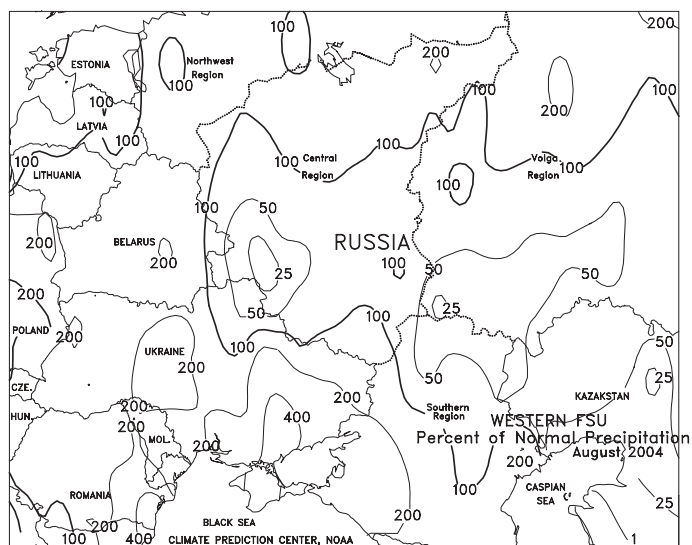
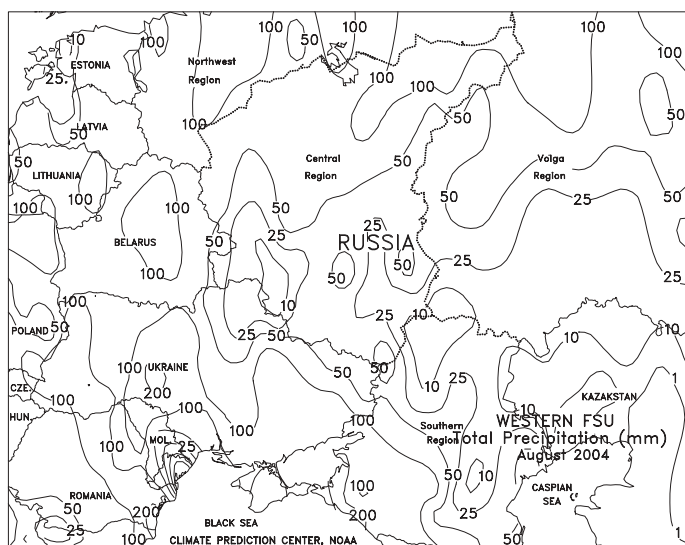
Wet weather (15-50 mm or more) returned to England, slowing late winter grain harvesting and the planting of next season's winter crops. A storm system developed in the Mediterranean Sea (south of France) producing widespread rain across Italy (25-75 mm or more), southeastern France (10-20 mm), Switzerland and southern Germany (10-30 mm), and most of the Balkans (10-40 mm). This rain boosted topsoil moisture for winter crop planting and slowed summer crop harvesting Italy. Elsewhere across Europe, mostly dry weather favored spring grain and early summer crop harvesting and winter grain and oilseed planting. Temperatures averaged near normal across most of western and central Europe 1 to 2 degrees C above normal across the east. During August, excessively wet weather in England disrupted winter grain harvesting and significantly reduced grain quality. Above-normal August rainfall slowed late winter grain harvesting in northern France and Germany. Elsewhere, near-normal rainfall and warm weather caused no major winter grain harvesting delays, favored filling summer crops, and boosted topsoil moisture for early planting of the 2005 winter grain and oilseed crop.

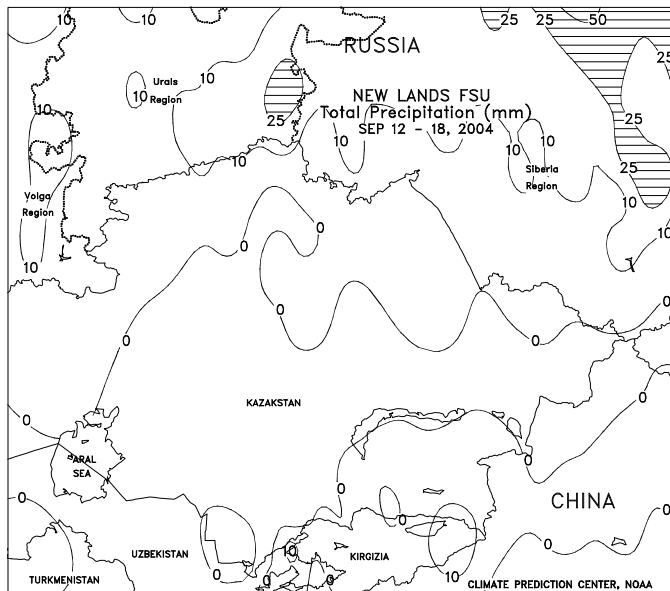




#### FSU-WESTERN

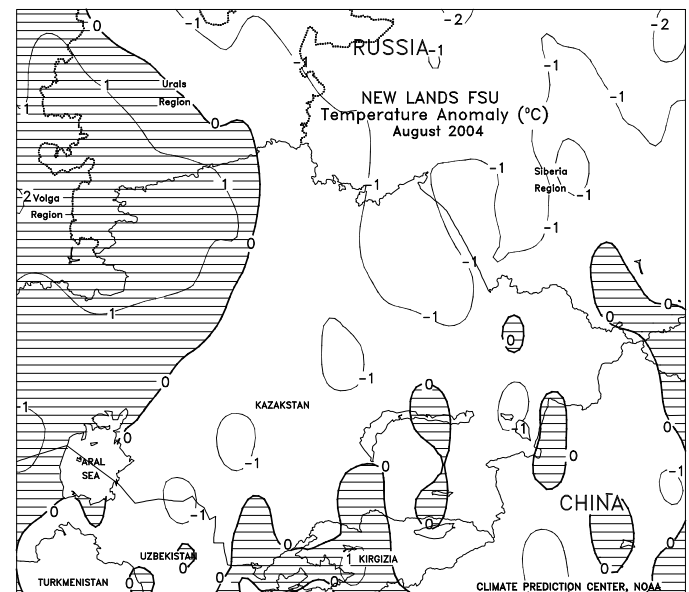
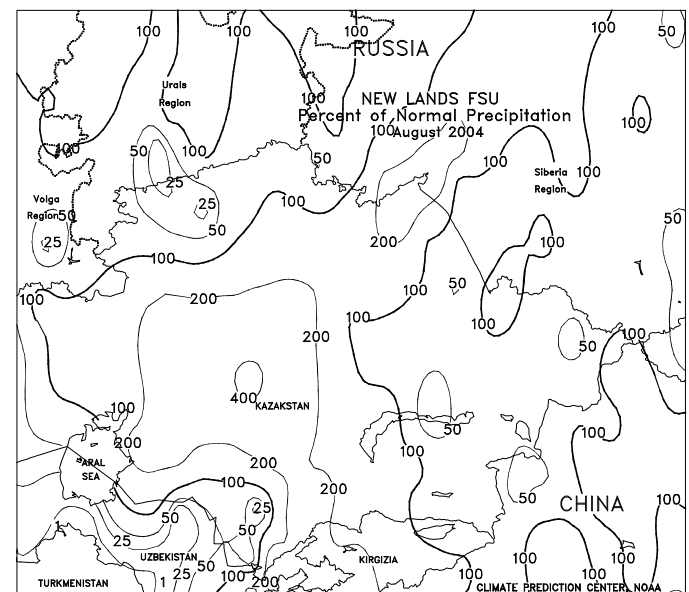
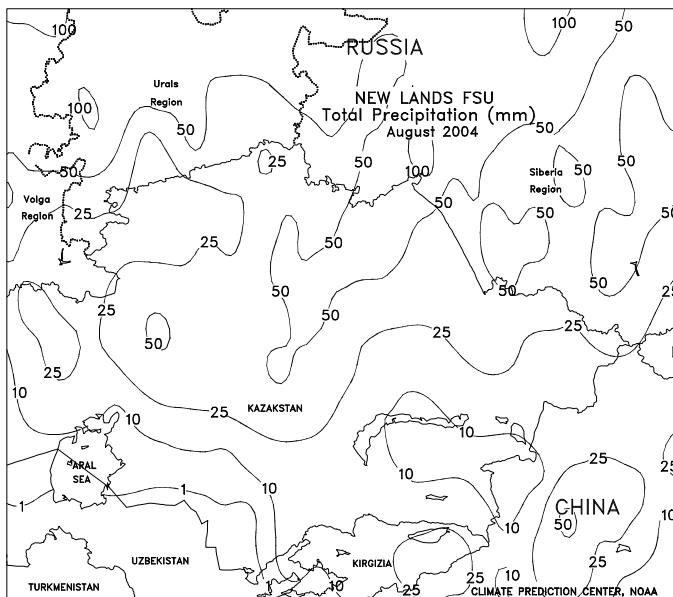
In Russia and Ukraine, a ridge of high pressure kept most areas unseasonably warm and dry, helping fieldwork for corn, sunflower, and sugar beet harvesting as well as winter grain planting. The exception was in north-central Ukraine, where light showers (around 10 mm) fell during the middle of the week. September is the optimum month for planting winter wheat in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia. The combination of sufficient topsoil moisture and near-normal temperatures favored winter wheat emergence and early plant establishment in these areas. Farther north, unseasonably warm (weekly temperatures averaging 3 to 5 degrees C above normal), dry weather extended across the Central and Volga Regions, helping late-season fieldwork and promoting rapid winter grain emergence and early growth. However, additional rain is needed in these areas to ensure that crops will become well established prior to entering dormancy. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather prevailed in Belarus, helping summer crop harvesting and late winter grain planting. In August, most of Ukraine experienced the wettest weather in at least the past 25 years, causing some interruptions in small grain harvesting, but providing abundant moisture conditions for summer crop development. Despite the rain, harvest activities continued to progress during the month. In Russia, northern areas (parts of the Central Region and the southern half of the Volga Region) received below-normal precipitation in August. The generally dry weather pattern favored fieldwork for spring grain harvesting and winter grain planting, which typically begins in late-August. However, topsoil moisture was becoming limited by month's end and rain was needed for winter grain germination. Farther south, above-normal precipitation continued July's wet weather pattern in the western portion of the Southern Region, providing generous moisture for filling summer crops. Elsewhere, above-normal precipitation boosted topsoil moisture for upcoming winter grain planting in Belarus and benefited filling summer crops in Moldova.





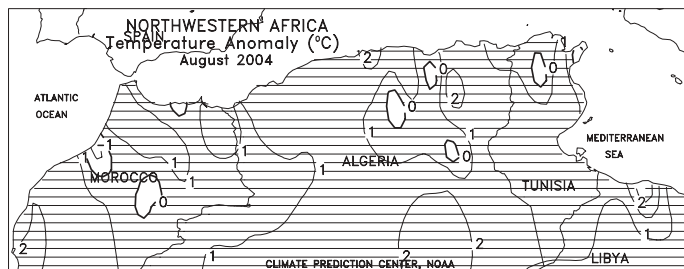
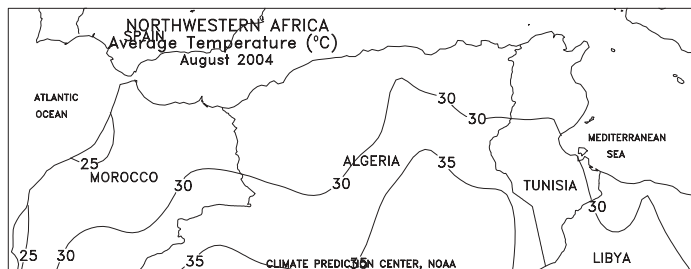
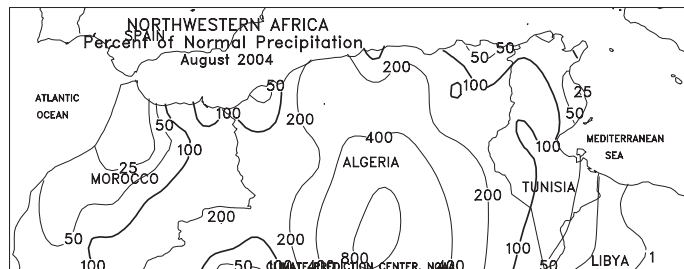
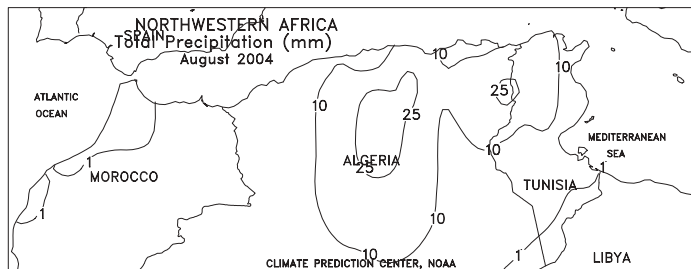
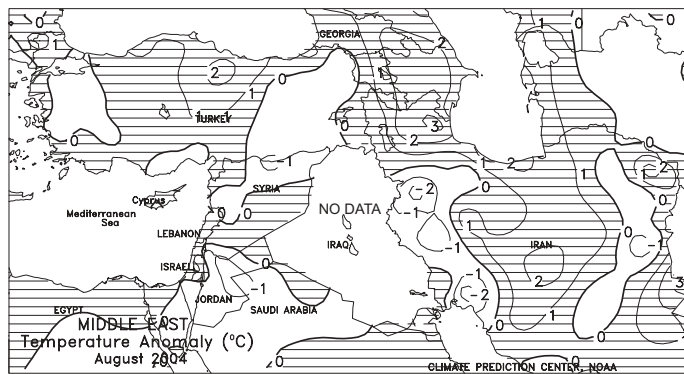
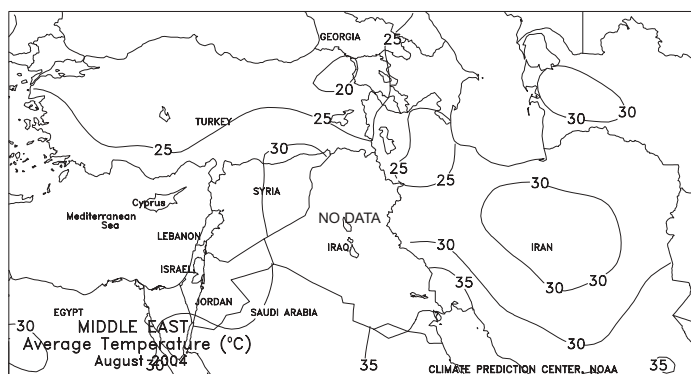
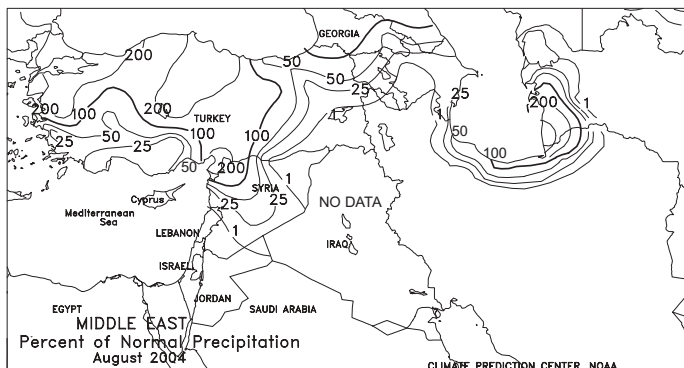
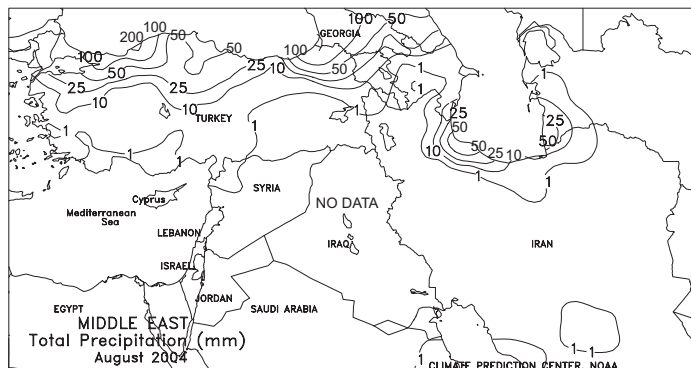
## FSU-NEW LANDS

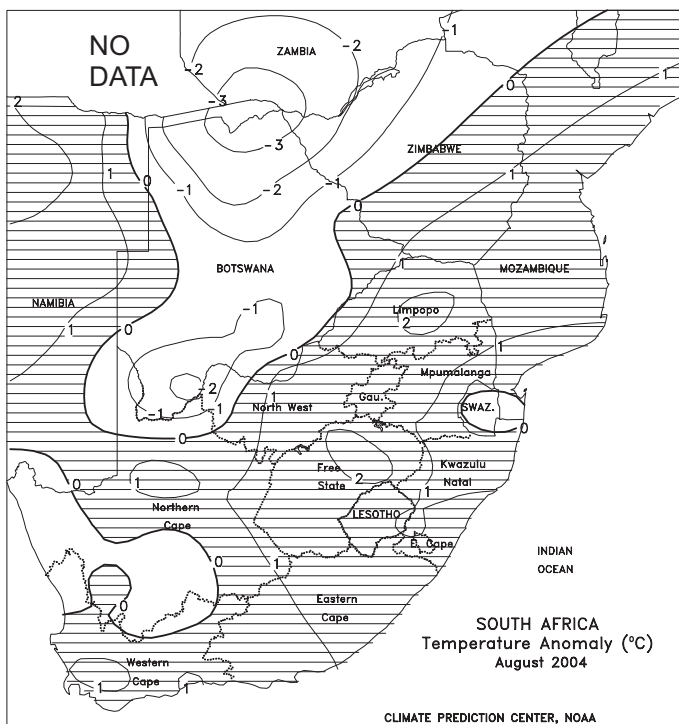
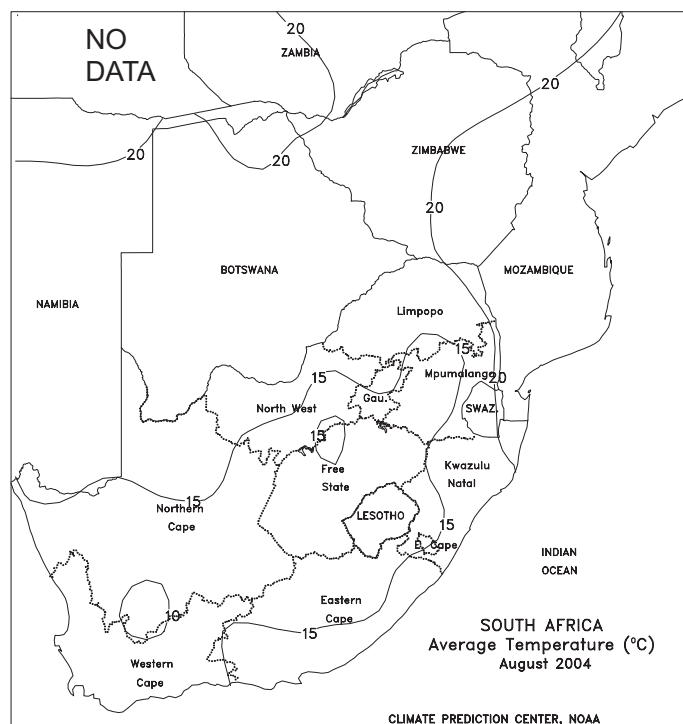
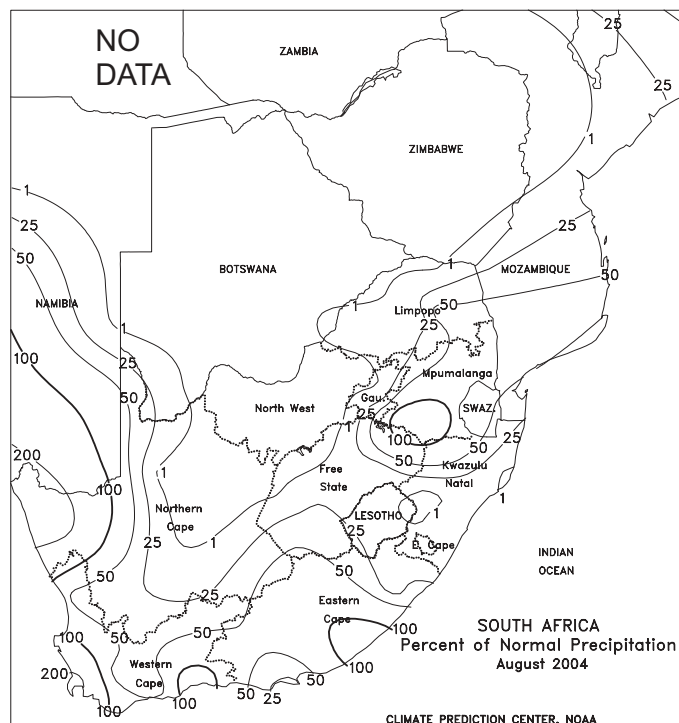
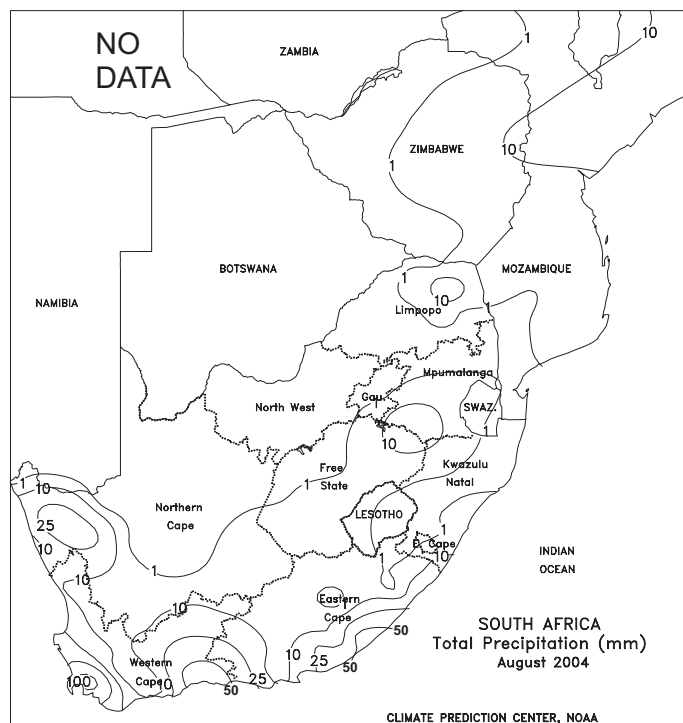
Spring grain harvesting was well underway in Russia and Kazakhstan. In Russia, light, scattered showers (around 10 mm) were accompanied by unseasonably warm weather (weekly temperatures averaging 3-4 degrees C above normal), causing only brief interruptions in spring grain harvest activities. In Kazakhstan, unseasonably warm, dry weather aided rapid harvest activities. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees C above normal in Kazakhstan. In August, periodic showers fell from the northern portion of the Urals eastward into the Siberia Region during the first half of the month, benefiting spring grains advancing through the filling stage of development. In the southern portion of the Urals Region, unfavorable dryness continued July's below-normal rainfall pattern, stressing immature crops. In major spring grain producing areas in north-central Kazakhstan, weather conditions for spring grain development were mixed. The combination of below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures continued July's well below normal rainfall in western areas (Kostanai Oblast), hastening maturity in crops. Reports indicate harvest in the major north-central growing areas began two weeks earlier than usual. Farther east, above-normal rains during the first half of August favored spring grains in the filling stage, and warmer, drier weather during the remainder of the month promoted crop maturation and early harvest activities.



## MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

Across northern and central Turkey, near- to above-normal August rainfall increased soil moisture supplies for upcoming winter grain planting. In western Turkey, seasonable weather favored cotton development.

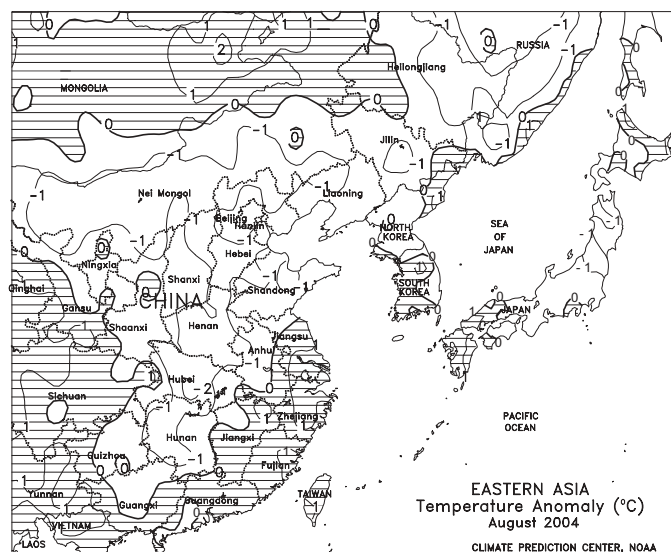
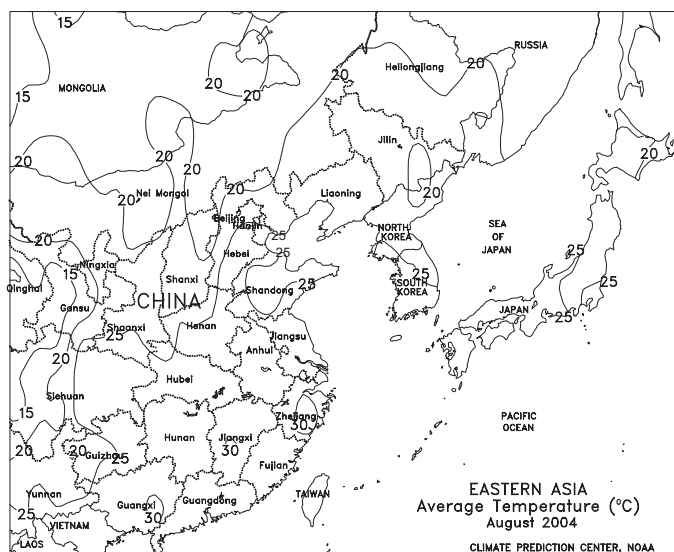
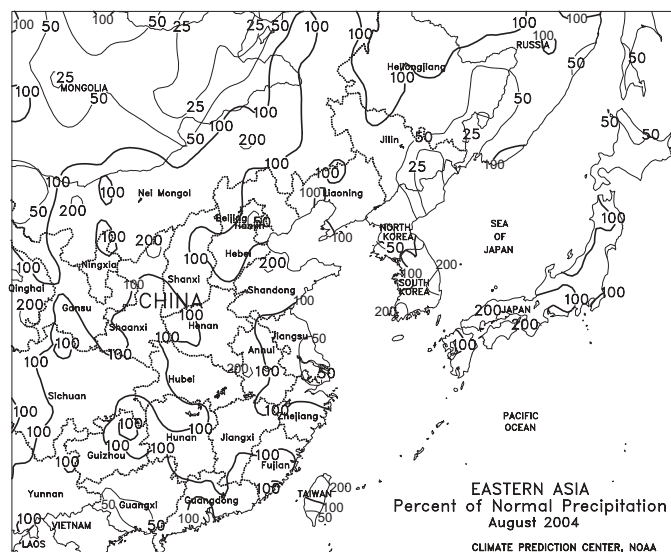


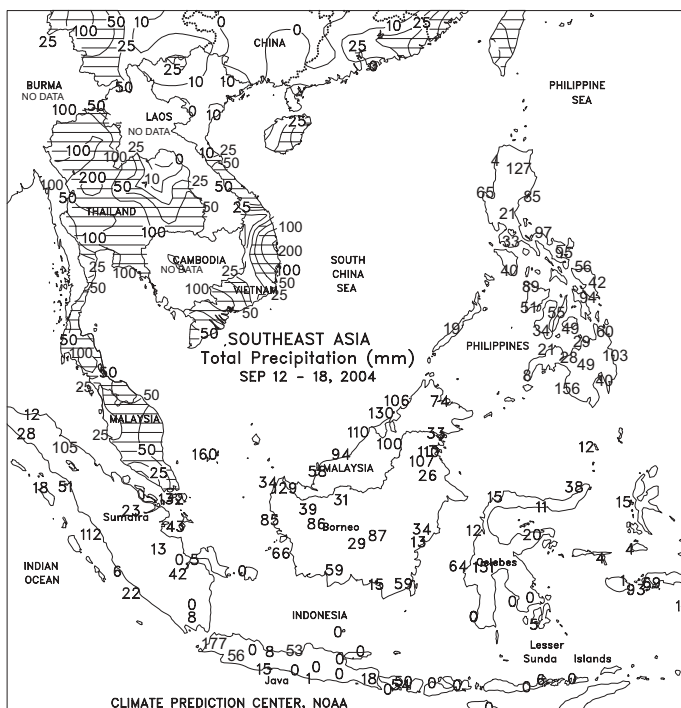




## EASTERN ASIA

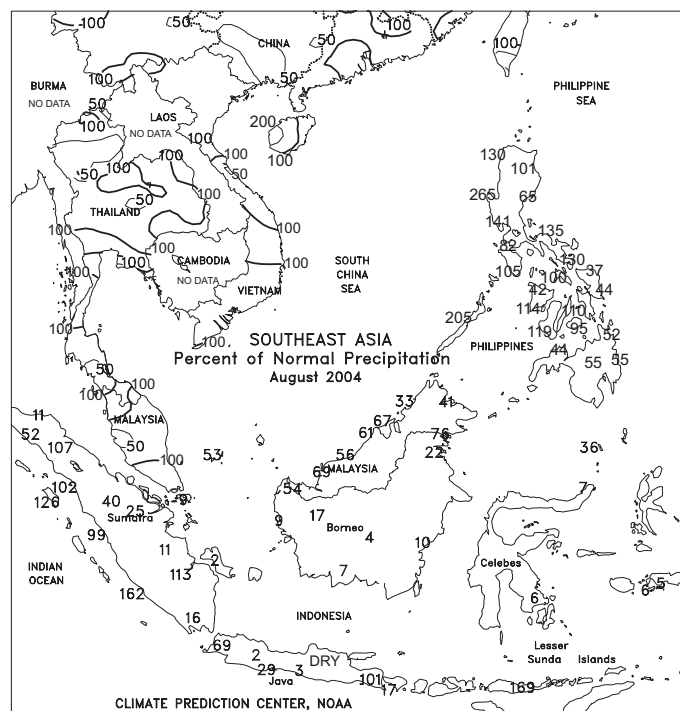
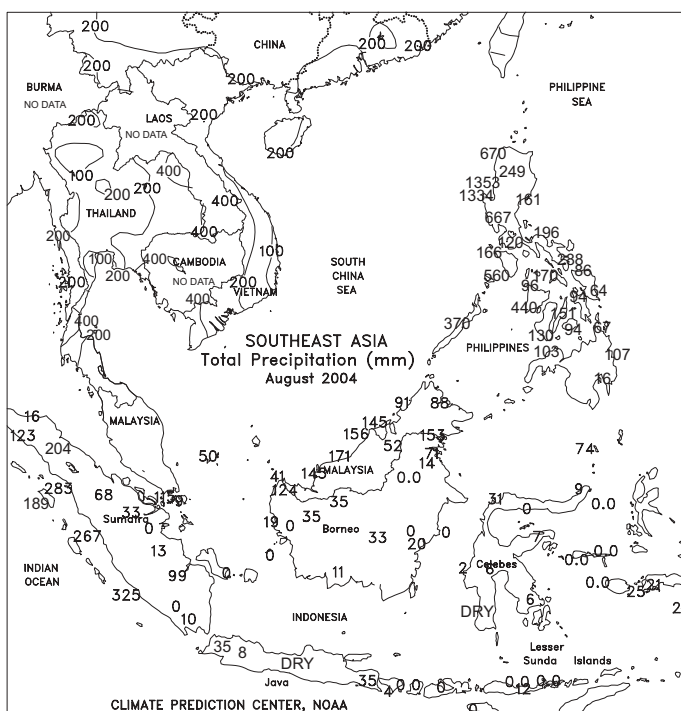
Moderate to heavy rainfall (25-100 mm) fell early in the week over parts of the North China Plain (Hebei and Shandong) and southern Manchuria (Liaoning and Jilin). The rainfall increased topsoil moisture for winter wheat germination and establishment. The rainfall was followed by warm, dry weather which favored maturation and harvesting of cotton, corn, and soybeans. Dry weather prevailed in central and southern China, while heavy showers (50-100 mm) fell along the coast. Heavy showers (50-200 mm) fell along the Korean peninsula, causing flooding in maturing rice fields. In Japan, showers (50-100 mm) maintained flooding in Kyushu, while scattered showers prevailed elsewhere. In August, dry conditions were eased in the southeastern rice areas with the passage of Typhoon Ranim. Above-normal rainfall from the North China Plain to the Yangtze Valley provided favorable moisture to reproductive corn, soybeans, and cotton during the first half of the month. However, by the latter half of August, rainfall and cool weather raised quality concerns for open cotton bolls. Showers in Manchuria benefited corn and soybeans in the filling stage. Typhoons Megi and Chaba produced flooding in southern rice areas of Japan and eastern South Korea.

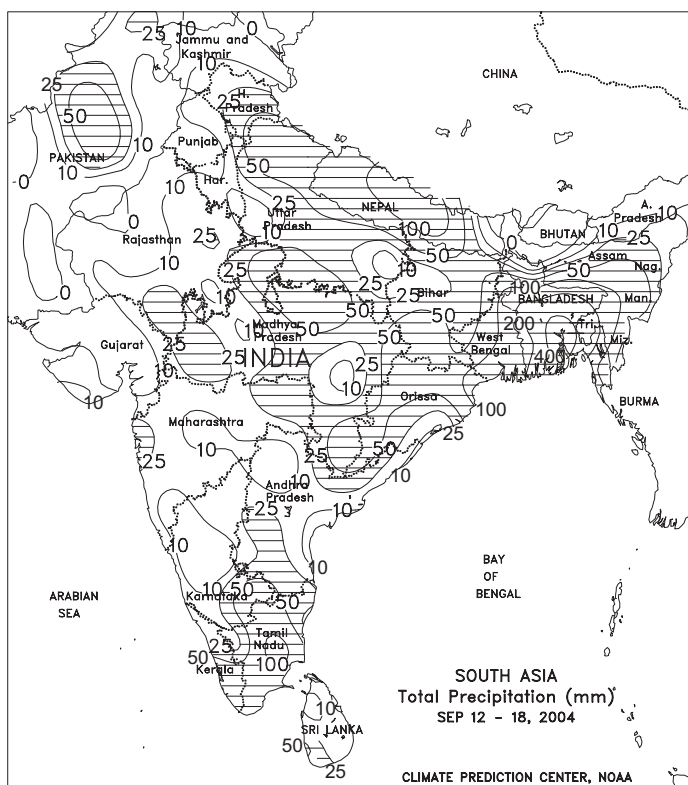
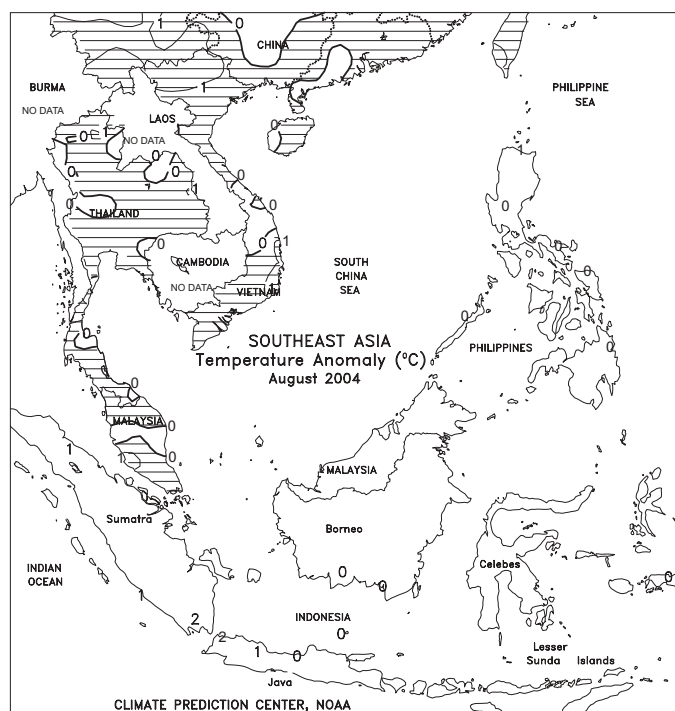
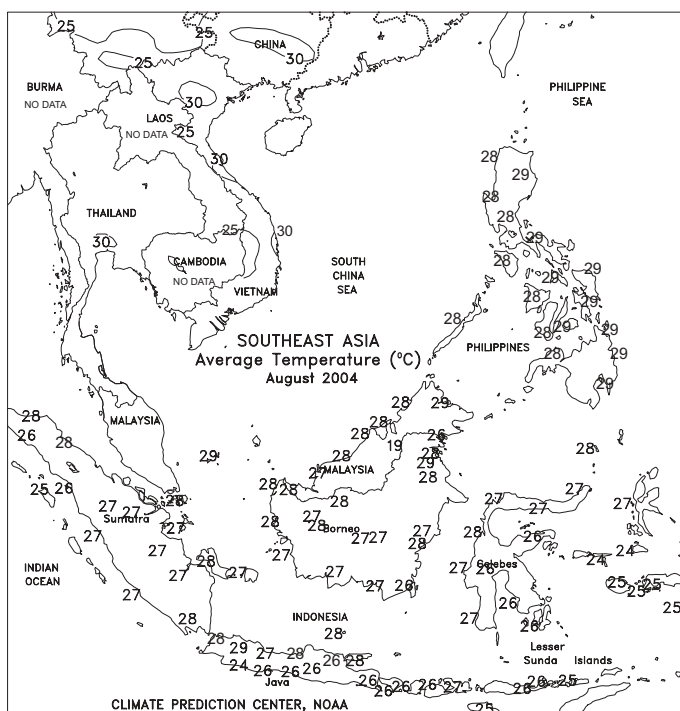




### SOUTHEAST ASIA

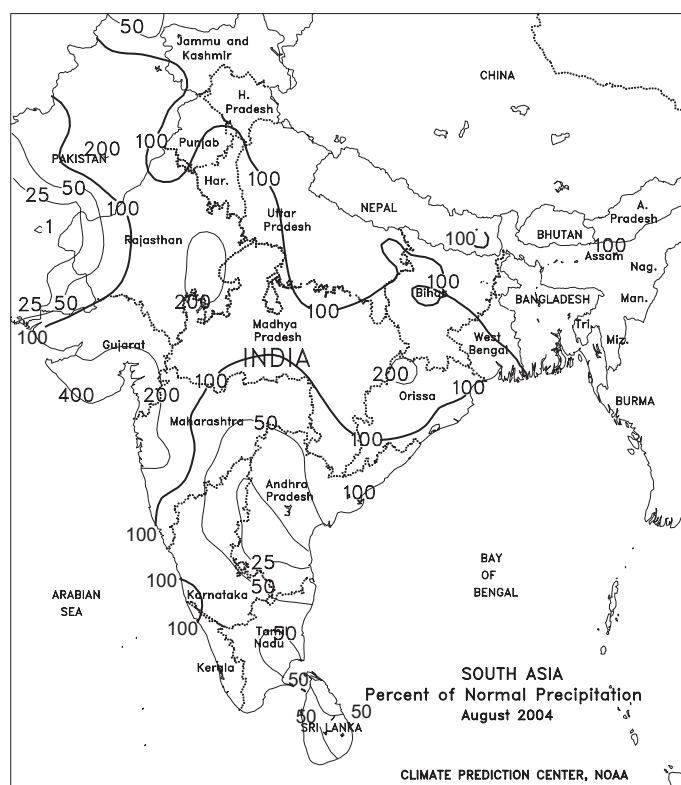
A tropical depression brought heavy showers (50-200 mm or more) to central Vietnam and most of Thailand. The showers eased dryness in coffee areas of Vietnam, but slowed rice harvesting and maturation in Thailand. Showers (25-100 mm) covered most of the Philippines, increasing moisture supplies for rice and corn. The rainfall was especially beneficial for areas in Mindanao, where dryness was developing. In Malaysia, showers (25-100 mm) maintained moisture supplies for oil palm, while showers were scattered in oil palm areas of Indonesia. In August, heavy showers from Typhoon Aere caused some flooding in rice areas of western Luzon, the Philippines. Corn and rice benefited from rainfall in the central Philippines, while dry weather reduced moisture supplies for crops in the south. Near-normal rainfall maintained irrigation supplies for rice in Indochina and oil palm in peninsular Malaysia.

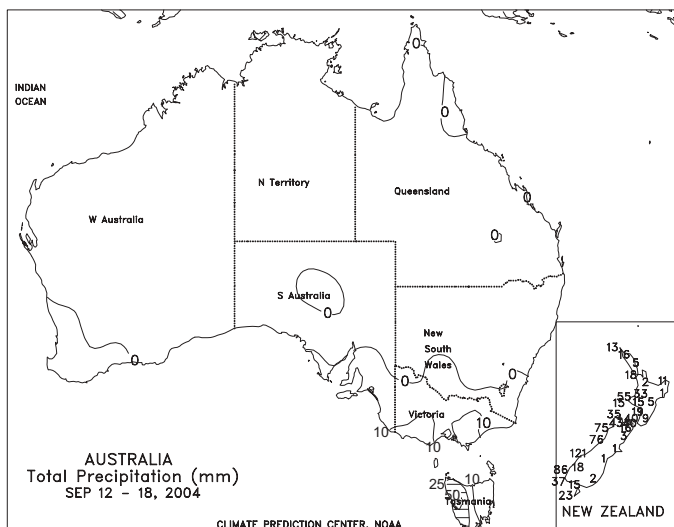




### SOUTH ASIA

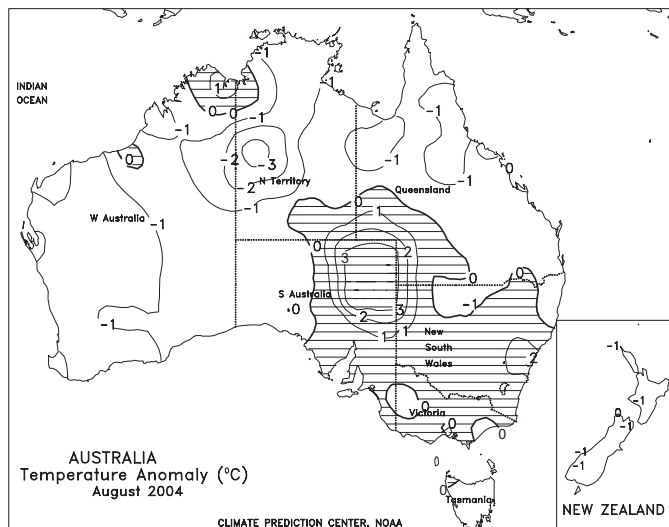
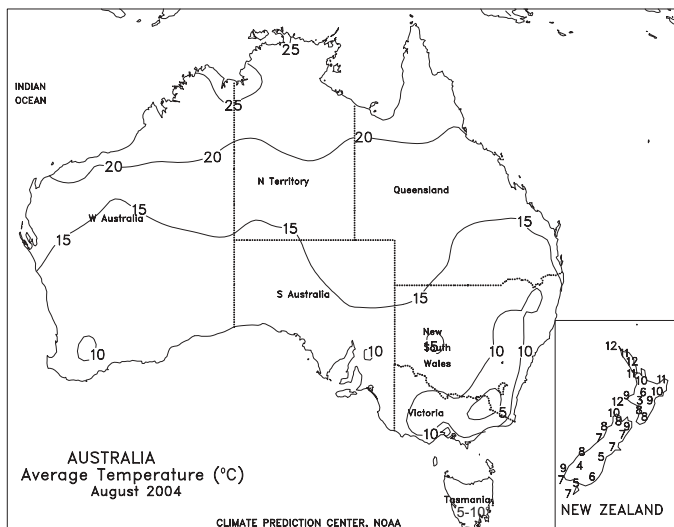
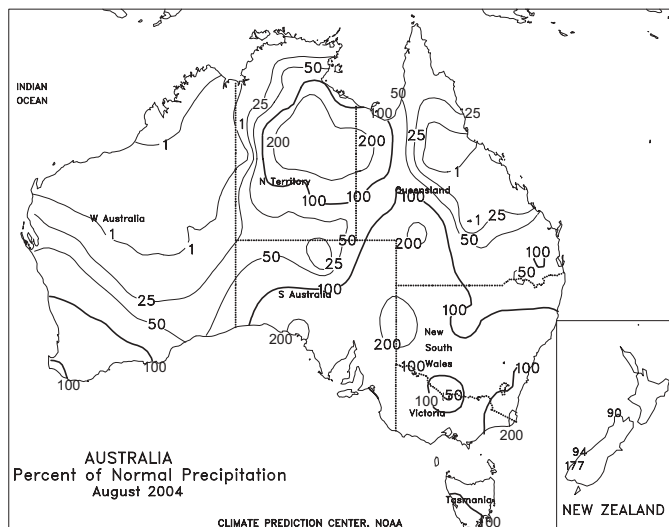
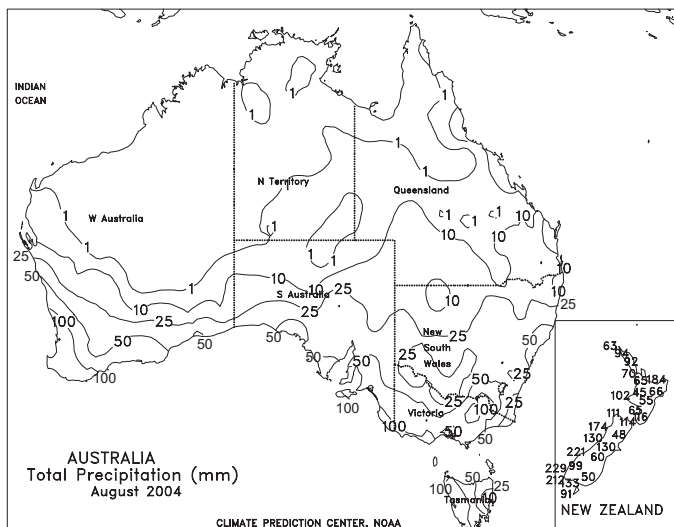
A tropical cyclone brought very heavy rain (100-200 mm or more) to Bangladesh and neighboring sections of India, renewing locally severe flooding of rice and other crops. Farther west, warm, showery weather (highs in the lower and middle 30s degrees C; rainfall totaling 10-50 mm or more) boosted late-season moisture reserves for immature grains and oilseeds, including soybeans in portions of central and western Madhya Pradesh and nearby areas of Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The increase in topsoil moisture will also help condition fields for sowing of the upcoming winter wheat and rapeseed crops. However, additional moisture is needed in India's southern interior for main-season cotton and establishment of autumn-planted (rabi) grains and oilseeds, due to pockets of dryness during the first part of the rainy season. An increase in rainfall is expected this time of year throughout the south as the monsoon recedes from northern and central India. During August, frequent showers kept crops throughout northern Pakistan and northern and central India well watered. In contrast, drier-than-normal weather continued over India's southern interior, reducing moisture for immature grains, oilseeds, and cotton. In Bangladesh and far eastern India, showers maintained abundant irrigation reserves for rice cultivation but were not excessive.

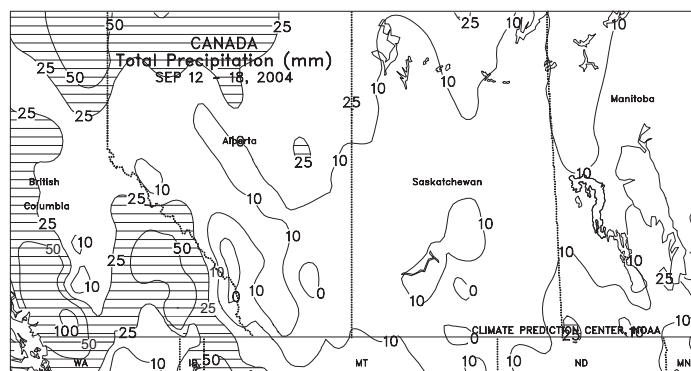




### AUSTRALIA

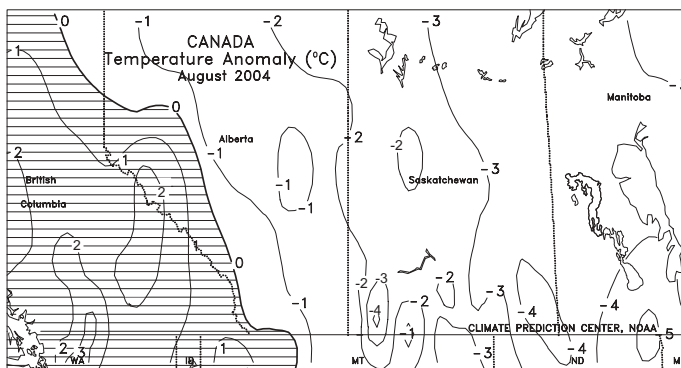
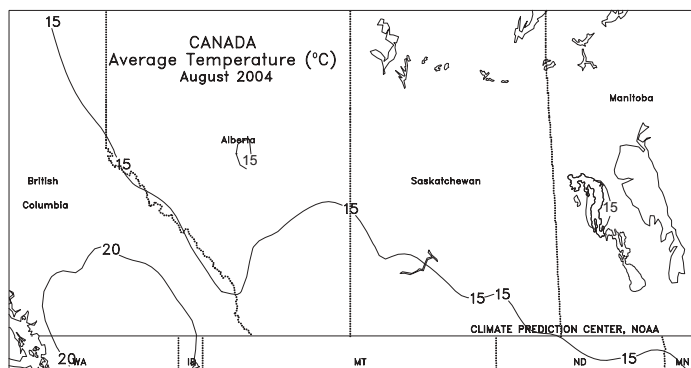
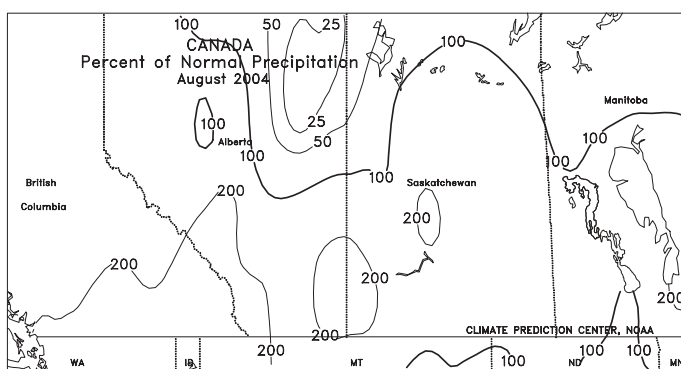
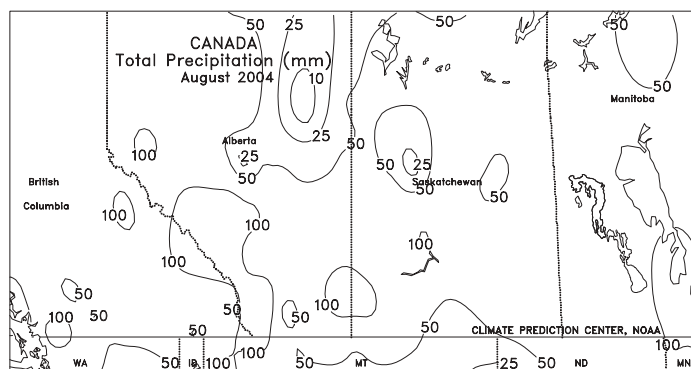
Mostly dry weather (less than 3 mm) dominated major winter grain and summer crop producing areas across the continent. Despite the dry weather, moisture supplies remained sufficient for winter wheat and barley development because of widespread rainfall the previous week and unseasonably cool weather this week (temperatures averaging 0-3 degrees C below normal). The drier weather favored fieldwork as well, including summer crop planting. Cotton and sorghum are typically planted between September and November in Queensland and northern New South Wales. In August, near- to above-normal rainfall in western and southern Australia maintained adequate to locally abundant moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains. In northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, increasing showers throughout the month helped stabilize conditions for moisture-stressed winter wheat and barley. The showers were timely for crops, approaching and entering reproduction.

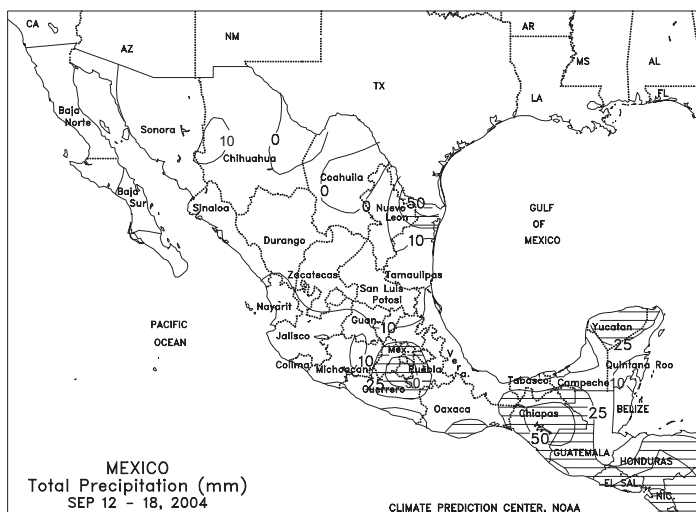




## CANADA

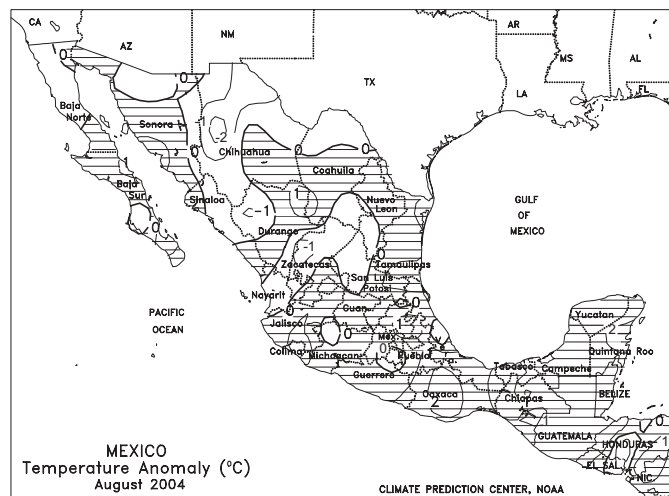
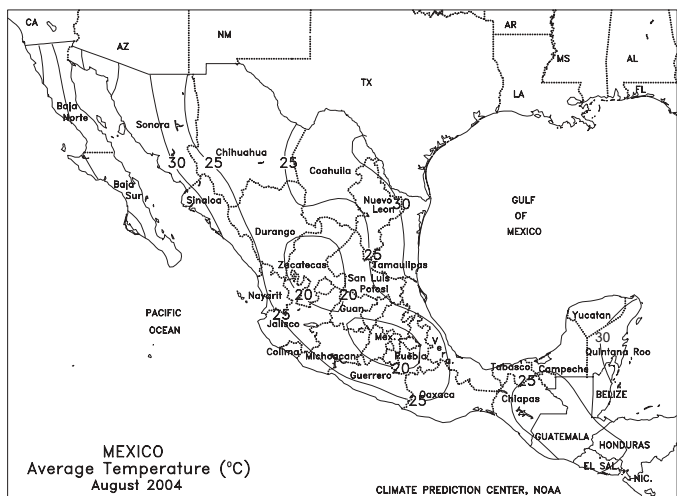
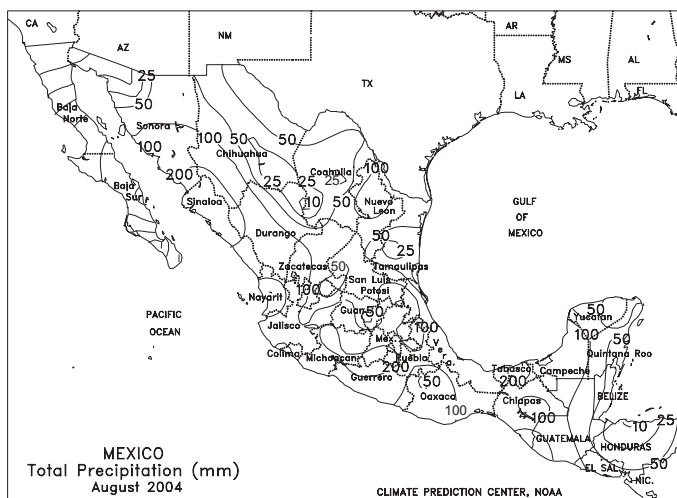
On the Prairies, untimely showers (10-25 mm or more) hampered spring crop harvesting in southern Manitoba and northern growing areas of Alberta. Mostly dry weather elsewhere supported spring grain and oilseed harvesting, although heavy rain was moving into southwestern Saskatchewan at week's end. Crop progress reportedly lagged the normal pace due to earlier weather-related problems. Temperatures averaged near to below normal in Alberta, with freezing temperatures (reported lows from -1 to 0 degrees C) in the Peace River Valley and farmland between Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Warmer conditions prevailed in the eastern Prairies, with highs in the middle and upper 30s degrees C helping to advance late-season crop development in Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan. In eastern Canada, mostly dry, unseasonably warm weather (temperatures averaging 2-3 degrees C above normal with highs in the middle and upper 20s degrees C) boosted development of summer crops and pastures, while promoting winter wheat planting. In August, an early autumn freeze caused some damage to spring crops, notably canola, in parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Conditions remained generally favorable in Alberta for filling to maturing spring grains and oilseeds. In eastern Canada, periods of cool, showery weather hampered wheat and hay harvests while keeping summer crop development behind schedule.





### MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN

Widespread showers (25-60 mm) continued across the main corn belt, southern Mexico, and the Yucatan Peninsula, maintaining adequate soil moisture for sugarcane, coffee, and late filling corn. Scattered showers (5-40 mm) increased irrigation supplies and aided pastures across the western Sierra Madre and the lower Rio Grande River watershed. Dry weather prevailed across northern and north-central Mexico. Temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal across most of Mexico, favoring early maturing summer crops. In the Caribbean, Hurricane Ivan brushed the extreme western tip of Cuba on September 13, affecting only minor sugarcane areas. Hurricane force winds (greater than 74 mph) were reported across half of the westernmost province of Pinar del Rio, which is a minor sugarcane producer. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the western third of Cuba received 50 to 100 mm of rain, helping to ease long-term drought. During August, near-normal rainfall maintained adequate soil moisture for reproductive to filling summer crops across the main corn belt. In the western Sierra Madre and northeast, near-normal rainfall also boosted irrigation supplies and aided pastures. Below-normal rainfall reduced soil moisture for summer crop across southeastern Mexico. August temperatures averaged near normal across northern and central Mexico and slightly above normal in the southeast.





### ARGENTINA

Early in the week, unseasonably cool weather overspread most major agricultural areas, with frost possible (lows at or below 0 degrees C) as far north as Chaco and Santiago del Estero. According to Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture (SAGPyA), sunseed and corn were 12 and 14 percent planted, respectively, as of September 17. Most of these early plantings occurred in the northern crop zones, and some replanting may be necessary because of the freeze. By week's end, however, temperatures had risen to the middle and upper 30s degrees C in the north, and temperatures for the week averaged near to above normal in the winter wheat belt, promoting vegetative development. In August, a soaking rain improved winter wheat prospects throughout major growing areas of La Pampa, Buenos Aires, and southern Cordoba, with mild weather favoring winter wheat germination and establishment throughout the month. However, warmer- and drier-than-normal weather reduced moisture levels in the more northerly growing areas (northern Cordoba to northern Entre Rios).

